



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
MEMO

To: **Financial Affairs Committee**

From: **Adam Florin, Water Superintendent**

Date: **July 3, 2023**

Subject: **Memo from the Water Superintendent requesting a waiver of the competitive bidding process and approval of a 3-year contract with Westrum Leak Detection for conducting a leak detection survey of all City owned fire hydrants.**

A. Issue

The Common Council has allocated \$25,000 from the Water Utility operating budget to be utilized for conducting a leak detection survey of all City owned fire hydrants. City staff is requesting a waiver of the competitive bidding process and approval of a 3-year contract with Westrum Leak Detection in the amount of \$15,300 per year in order to complete this project.

B. Background/Options

For the last two years, 2021 and 2022, the Water Utility has utilized a water leak detection company to conduct a leak survey of all City water mains using City fire hydrants. An electronic amplified microphone is placed on each fire hydrant to listen and determine if water leakage is occurring. Areas where water leakage is confirmed are further investigated with a computerized leak correlator to pinpoint the location of the water leak. A final report is received detailing the location of each leak, an estimated size of the leak and the estimated savings resulting from the repair of all leaks. Those yearly savings were estimated at \$85,958 and \$40,844 for 2021 and 2022 respectively.

In 2021 and 2022 proposals were obtained from three leak detection companies and Westrum Leak Detection was the lowest cost provider for both years and was selected to perform the work. For 2023 proposals were again requested from the three leak detection companies, but Westrum Leak Detection has been the only response. I believe the other two companies are fully aware they are just being used to fulfill the City's purchasing policy of requiring three quotes for purchases over \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Because of their continued excellent customer service provided to the Water Utility, and competitive pricing, City staff is recommending a waiver of the competitive bidding process and approval of a 3-year contract with Westrum Leak Detection for conducting a leak detection survey of all City owned fire hydrants.

C. Strategic Plan (Area of Focus)

Priority 2: Public Safety & Priority 3: Infrastructure

D. Fiscal Impact

The annual amount of \$15,300 will be budgeted in the Water Utility budget. The total value of the 3-year contract is \$45,900

E. Recommendation

Approval to waive the competitive bidding process and approve a 3-year contract with Westrum Leak Detection in the amount of \$15,300 per year for a leak detection survey of all City owned fire hydrants.